

FILED

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA**

APR 09 1999

ROBERT J. [unclear]
U.S. DIST. COURT, WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLA.
BY CLERK
DEPUTY

**IN RE: REFERRAL AND ASSIGNMENT OF CIVIL)
CASES FOR JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE) G.O. 99-2
SUPPLEMENTING LOCAL CIVIL RULE 16.2)**

**GENERAL ORDER REGARDING REFERRAL AND ASSIGNMENT
OF CIVIL CASES FOR JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE**

REFERRALS

(A) All civil cases that are set on the monthly trial dockets of each federal district judge or on the consent trial docket of any magistrate judge shall be referred, pursuant to this order, to the magistrate judges of the court, including any recall magistrate judge designated to hold judicial settlement conferences. No separate magistrate judge referral order shall be necessary or required for such referrals. This settlement conference program constitutes a court-sponsored alternative dispute resolution (ADR) program for purposes of 28 U.S.C. § 651, et seq., and shall be considered a certified ADR program for purposes of the Administrative Office of the Courts' staffing formula.

(B) All civil cases that are otherwise referred to a judicial settlement conference -- those known as "early settlement conferences" to be held at any practicable time earlier than a "trial docket setting," or any other non-trial docket referral (i.e. mid-trial requests or referrals, appeal remand requests or referrals or the like) - shall be referred, pursuant to this order, to the magistrate judges of the court, including any recall magistrate judge designated to hold such judicial settlement conferences. No separate magistrate judge referral order

shall be necessary or required. These settlement conferences are usually requested by the parties and referred by the assigned judge and shall be considered a traditional judicial settlement conference pursuant to Fed.R.Civ.P. 16.

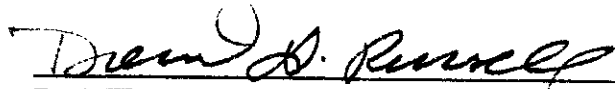
ASSIGNMENTS

(A) Assignments of cases for either category of judicial settlement conference (see A and B above) shall be coordinated by a Settlement Conference Coordinator under the supervision of the court in such a manner that each full-time magistrate judge shall, over a period of time, be assigned substantially an equal number of settlement conferences.

(B) Consolidated cases shall be considered one (1) case for purposes of determining equal assignment. If requests are made to hear a companion or related case (not officially consolidated) at the same settlement conference, the magistrate judge assigned the original settlement conference may determine whether this would constitute one or more cases.


(C) No assignment for settlement conference purposes shall be made to any magistrate judge who may otherwise be assigned the case whether as a magistrate judge consent case, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(c), or for other pretrial or discovery matters. All efforts to avoid any conflict of interest shall be made. For cases where a settlement conference may have been previously held or scheduled, all efforts to assign the same settlement magistrate judge will be made.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 9th day of April, 1999.



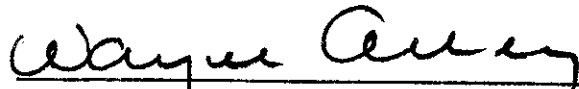
DAVID L. RUSSELL

CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE



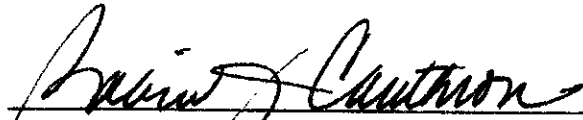
RALPH G. THOMPSON

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE




WAYNE E. ALLEY

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE



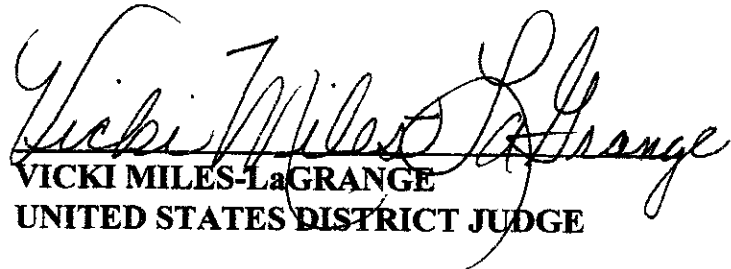
ROBIN J. CAITHRON

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE



TIM LEONARD

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE



VICKI MILES-LAGRANGE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE